Medical and Public Health.—Along with moral development of our rural folk Government have not spared pains to provide, as much as their resources would permit, to improve the health of the masses by expanding the curative and preventive sides simultaneously. The strengthening of rural midwifery staff along with vaccination staff, the proposed starting of a Research Laboratory in Public Health, the opening of Tuberculosis Clinics at Ernakulam and Mattancheri, besides a full fledged Sanatorium at Mulakunnathukavu, the State-wide campaign against the scourge of malaria are but some of the attempts of the Government in these directions. The Medical Department is provided with an ambulance van and a boat. The provision of Rs. 2½ lakhs for providing additional accommodation and amenities is but a part of a ten year programme of expenditure for the Medical Department.

Rural Reconstruction.—"Real India lives in her 7,00,000 villages" as Mahatma Gandhi is never tired of repeating and even in our hoary past there existed in the country a highly evolved social and economic order the centre of which was the village. Government have, for years past, been trying to revive the old village glory in the State by constiution of Panchayats with powers of Local Self Government and other suitable measures. The Panchayat Act recently passed gives the Panchayats wide powers of taxation and administration. The number of Panchayats has been increased; each Panchayat is given a clerk to execute its orders; every Panchayat with its own powers of self government, with its Village Court administering justice its area served by a School, by an Allopathic or Ayurvedic institution not far away to attend its sick, its backward or depressed people raised up by various measures, its roads, wells and tanks kept clean and tidy, its homes humming with handicrafts marketted by Co-operative Societies, its manhood weaned from drink evil and its people sturdy and contented conjures a happy vision of a

"Sweet Aburn, loveliest village of the plain
Wher health and plenty cheered the labouring swain"

It is towards the fulfilment of such an ideal that we are slowly but steadily moving. By reviving the sell sufficient village economy and bringing employment and prosperity back to the people, we have to restore to the villages the central place which they occupied in our national life. A casual glance at the budget before us today would show any udprejudiced observer that large amounts of money have been set apart in our earnest endeavour to reach this cherished goal by active rural reconstruction. The liberal provisions we have made in Agriculture, Panchayat, Co-operative, Village Court, Ayurveda, and Uplift and other budgets aggregate to Rs. 23·64 lakhs excluding Medical, Education and Public Works.

Agriculture	Rs.	3·96	lakhs
Panchayats	,,	8·34	,,
Village Court	,,	·90	,,
Co-operative	,,	·73	,,
Ayurveda	,,	3·10	,,
Rural Sanitation	,,	4·55	,,
Uplift	,,	2·06	,,

Public Works.—The Public Works Department, as already stated, has undergone a thorough overhaul and reorganisation costing the tax payer havy expenditure. Though in the current year things could not improve as hoped for owing to several handicaps better results are expected hereafter. For 1123, we have made large provisions for many important works and I am sure their execution will justify the re-organisation, top-heavy as some may perhaps call it.

The Department is allotmed a grant of more than Rs. 75·00 lakhs. Important road works such as Vypeen-Pallipuran, Pandikudi-Chellanam are done out of the Road and Canal Development Fund, to which a contribution of Rs. 5 lakhs is made. Completion of the asphalting and improvements to the Hill Palace Road, concreting of the Trichur town roads, hostels and play grounps for the two Training Institutions, buildings for public offices and schools, completion of the buildings for the T. B. Sanatorium, improvements to Mental Hospital, Trichur, and a part provision of Rs. 2·50 lakhs for the construction of additional Hospitals under a planned programme for Medical Expansion are some of the more important works under Civil Engineering.

Administration and Law and order.—We were first in the field to join the Indian Union with Aikyakerala as our ideal and our Reforms Secretariat has been at work for some time past to deeply consider the various changes that may have to be brought about, in the wake of the formation of the Indian Union Government in August. Provision has been made for conducting election after preparatien of correct electoral rolls on the basis of adult franchise and under the separate department organised for the purpose. The various commitments we may have to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly